

STATE BOARD OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Minutes of March 13, 2007
 Bear River Health Department
 Brigham City, Utah

Attended:

Board Members:

Dr. Michael Crookston, Chair
 Paula Bell, Vice-Chair
 Darryl Wagner
 Louis Callister
 Joleen Meredith
 Nora B Stephens

Excused:

James Ashworth

Staff:

Mark Payne
 Ron Stromberg
 Dallas Earnshaw

Brent Kelsey
 Jan Fryer

Guests:

Jack Tanner
 Tim Frost
 Roland Parent
 Jaylene McNeely
 Reed Ernstrom
 Brock Alder
 Kathy Curtis
 Farrin Wiese
 LouEllen Brown

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome & Introductions	Dr. Crookston opened the meeting, welcomed those in attendance, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Feb. 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes		Nora B moved that the February 13 th meeting minutes be approved as written. Motion seconded by Lou and approved unanimously.
Presentations	<p>Bear River Substance Abuse Services. Brock Alder and staff provided a presentation to the Board. Background information on the center was provided and it was reported that the agency is a stand-alone substance abuse center and maintains an excellent relationship with Bear River Mental Health. A handout was distributed and reviewed which provided comparison statistics for the center. Brock addressed the current substance abuse funding formula and expressed interest in having issues with the funding formula addressed that would allow for more fair and equitable distribution of funding. The various substance abuse services provided for adults and children in the three counties served by the center were also reviewed along with information and handouts on the prevention programs offered.</p> <p>Bear River Mental Health. Reed Ernstrom and staff provided a presentation to the Board. He indicated that he was recently hired as the director and has been with the agency for ten weeks. Background information on the center and the programs operating in the three-county area were provided. Statistics on the number served and the priority for service was also reviewed. Challenges reported include, 1) changing the clubhouse model to a recovery-based program, 2) lack of funding for non-Medicaid clients, 3) finding and retaining the best employees for the organization, 4) one-time funding versus ongoing funding for new programs, and 5) additional housing in Cache county.</p>	The Board expressed their thanks and appreciation to both Reed and Brock and their staff for attending and presenting information about their agencies and the excellent programs and services that are provided.

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Final Legislative Update	<p>Mark distributed a one-page summary outlining the appropriations received for substance and mental health programs during the 2007 legislative session. The document also provided information on the compensation for providers and state employees and the outcome of the bills that were tracked related to substance abuse and mental health. Mark reviewed the details of the appropriations and the proposed process for distributing the monies.</p> <p>House Bill 391, Utah State Hospital Amendments initiated a lengthy discussion. It was noted that although this bill did not pass, it is believed that money was appropriated in an untitled line item that would study efficiencies at the State Hospital. Board members expressed strong concerns about the process and discussed possible ways that they might be involved to assure that privatization of the State Hospital does not occur. Board members expressed concerns that arguments for privatization are being made prior to taking the time to visit the State Hospital and make some factual comparisons. There was a lengthy discussion about how Board members could be involved which include, 1) be aware of upcoming meetings for the HHS Interim Committee, 2) arrange for legislators to visit and tour the State Hospital, 3) attend Committee hearings and provide feedback if time is allowed for public comment, and if not, file a written statement, 4) learn and understand the facts and begin talking with legislators about the issues, and 5) invite the HHS Interim Committee to meet with the Board at their June 12th Board meeting scheduled at the State Hospital.</p>	<p>The Board requested that the Division keep them fully advised of the issues related to privatization of the State Hospital. They requested that they receive information on upcoming meetings of the HHS Interim Committee and the HHS Appropriations Sub-Committee and to receive notification of who the committee chairs are once they have been appointed.</p> <p>Paula moved that the chairs of the HHS Interim Committee and the chairs of the HHS Appropriations Committee be invited to the June 12th Board meeting at the State Hospital. Motion seconded by Lou and approved unanimously.</p>
Board's Annual Review of Statute/Rules	<p>Mark suggested, due to timeframes, that the next three agenda items are mostly informational at this point and could be covered through a quick briefing if desired.</p> <p>The Board was provided copies of the statute and administrative rule that pertains to the authority and responsibilities of the Board. Mark referred specifically to the portion in the rule that states that the Board will convene an annual meeting to provide an opportunity on new policy or proposed changes in existing policy. He noted that policies no longer exist because they have all been incorporated into administrative rules and this needs to be addressed. A discussion also needs to occur about the Board's responsibility to review new and/or existing rules.</p>	<p>Board agreed.</p> <p>This issue will be on the April 19th Board meeting agenda for further discussion.</p>
Update on Certification of Therapeutic Courts	Brent reported that the Administrative Office of the Courts is preparing a new rule that will develop a certification process for drug courts, mental health courts, and domestic violence courts. He informed the Board that at some point, the Board might want to review this rule and have the opportunity to provide feedback.	FYI.
Evidenced-Based Practices for Substance Abuse	Brent reported that as part of the new funding that has been appropriated for substance abuse services, discussions will begin about looking at new innovative practices. He referred to the 2003 Division Substance Abuse Treatment Practice Guidelines that were passed and adopted. He noted that consideration should be given to expanding these guidelines or identifying some other innovative practices with the new appropriated dollars.	FYI.

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UBHN Report	<p>Jack provided background information on the Utah Behavioral Healthcare Network (UBHN). He informed the Board that over the past year, discussions have occurred with the Utah Association of Counties (UAC), regarding combining the organizations in some way. He reported that initially, it started out as a simple co-location with UBHN relocating to the UAC office and entering into a Management Services Agreement. Jack reported that as the discussions continued, UAC moved towards absorbing UBHN because the counties have the responsibility over the substance abuse and mental health programs. Jack then distributed a document that was drafted in response to UAC, which include the elements that UBHN believes are necessary in a merger agreement to assure that the identified functions continue. Jack explained that the document divides the functions into four basic areas which include, 1) statewide issues and systems development, 2) specific projects, 3) representation, and 4) administration and management. Jack reported that the intent is to require of UAC in any kind of a merger agreement, that there is assurance that all of these things can be continued. If not, it is believed that the system will be impacted adversely unless we continue to operate as we have. Jack indicated that negotiations are still underway with many issues yet to be resolved. He reported that he is retiring the end of June and therefore there is some time deadline assigned to this, however, there has been no movement towards his replacement. However, it is hopeful that all of the functions identified in the document will continue to be performed.</p>	<p>The Board expressed their thanks and appreciation to Jack for all of his efforts and accomplishments over the years and for his regular input at monthly Board meetings.</p> <p>An update on the merger will be provided at the next Board meeting.</p>
State Hospital Report	<p>Dallas reported for the State Hospital and updated the Board on recruitment and retention issues. There are 18 vacant nursing positions, which makes it difficult to operate the Hospital and creates supervision and safety issues and presents moral problems. It is hopeful that the Recruitment and Retention Plan submitted to the Department will be approved shortly and will result in more nurses being hired.</p> <p>The State Hospital has submitted their periodic performance review to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) as part of their JCAHO accreditation process; however, results have not yet been received.</p> <p>The State Hospital held an open house for the Treatment Mall to provide an opportunity for individuals around the state to visit the mall and learn about the successful program and the services it provides.</p> <p>Hospital staff and patients will assist in the Suicide Prevention Walk sponsored by the Mental Health Association, which will be held at Sugarhouse Park on April 28.</p> <p>The new proposed Pediatric Facility was not approved and puts the Hospital in a position to possibly implement their interim safety plan if further problems exist. In the meantime, the Hospital is trying to renovate and redesign the Pediatric Unit to create a better environment for the children.</p>	FYI.
Adjournment		It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

